The Vision
July 2010

Multicultural Conference Summary

In late May, I attended the Presbyterian Multicultural Conference featuring participants and leaders from all over the world. I was fortunate that the conference was held in Chicago this year—it will probably be another century before that happens again. The message of the conference was that we should embrace multiculturalism, rather than try to fight against it. One reason is that the shift to multiculturalism is inevitable—it is already there in the schools and the demographics, so it is only a matter of time before every aspect of our lives becomes multicultural. But the more important reason to embrace this movement is that this is clearly God’s intention.

In Genesis one, God creates a universe full of diversity and God revels in all of the different “kinds” of creatures that God makes. A simpler creation—say, just rice and human beings—might have made the study of biology easier, but that was not God’s will. It is clear from both the Bible and from the very fabric of nature that God intends for different kinds of creatures to mix together. Only by mixing together of different parts can we form new syntheses that lift us to new heights.

The Presbyterian Church is late in figuring this out. We still tend to congregate with people who are similar to ourselves. Trends of similar ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, etc., often dominate membership rosters. The one area that the church is somewhat ahead of the rest of society is in the area of multiculturalism with regard to age. For example, on Monday night, there is typically a gathering of a dozen people to play volleyball, and the ages are typically evenly spread out, everywhere from thirteen through sixty-three. Where else do you find such gatherings?

One strategy is to play to our strengths, rather than bemoan our weaknesses. If we can focus on making every part of the church’s life attractive to people of every age, the idea of multiculturalism will likely spread by analogy to issues of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, etc. This is certainly my strategy, and I hope that you will embrace it as well.

There were many ideas circulated at the conference for making church gatherings more attractive to people of all ages. One idea that particularly struck a chord with me was the process of “mutual invitation” as a guiding principle for small groups. This process works for groups of four through twelve, and it utilizes a system wherein everyone in the group receives an “invitation” to speak. I’ll explain more about the process next month, but the point is to empower individuals who may feel hesitant, or inadequate, or peripheral.

Space does not permit a full description here, but you should be on the lookout for more to come on this front. I hope, eventually, to introduce mutual invitation even into the setting of worship. In the meantime, if you have any ideas for how to make the church more inviting to different types of people, please don’t hesitate to pass them on to me.

Your brother in Christ,
Scott
**Worship/Church News**

**July Worship Schedule**

July 4  *Galatians 6:1-16*  “The Protestant Work Ethic”  It is sometimes said that the greatness of the U.S. was established by the “Protestant Work Ethic.” How has that “ethic” shaped this country? How does Paul inspire us to value work? We will also have a flag ceremony today with the Cub Scouts, and we will celebrate communion.

July 11  *Luke 10:25-37*  “Why Go On Mission Trips?”  Why should we send a group out on a mission trip to a far away place to work with strangers—couldn’t they get more done at home? Today we will have a ceremony for Commissioning the Mission Trip participants.

July 18  *Luke 10:38-42*  “Distractions”  What are some of the distractions that tend to prevent us from connecting with God? Why is Mary’s choice “better” than Martha’s choice?

July 25  *Genesis 1:1-31*  “Blessing of the Animals”  What is the value that animals have from God’s perspective? Today we will worship outdoors and we will bless the animals who come to worship with a brief prayer and laying on of hands. If it rains, please do not bring animals, as we will move worship indoors. We’ll also have some VBS recap.

**Blessing of the Animals**

*Abbreviations and Acronyms from the Worship Committee . . .*

In this day and age of speed we are continually forming new acronyms, and abbreviations, but sometimes they do help. The Worship & Music Committee would like to add two more to the list—TWC and BYOLC. “Why?” you ask? Please mark your calendars for July 25 for the worship service known as the *Blessing of the Animals.* It’s been a huge success in the past, and we look forward to it again on July 25. What we need from you is to watch TWC, *The Weather Channel,* days before and the day of the event. As this worship service is an outdoor event, in case of rain, we will be meeting in the sanctuary without pets. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate; and in that case we need you to BYOLC (bring your own lawn chair). It’s a lot of work to bring the chairs from the basement, and we are asking you to bring your favorite lawn chair, camp stool, or blanket. Yes, there will be chairs brought up from the basement, but we are trying to limit the number we have to carry. Thank you for your help, and in closing, I would like use an abbreviation from the 50’s, BTOBS. - *Steve Teune*

**Strawberry Social July 14**

On Wednesday, July 14, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m., the RPC Strawberry Social, a Riverside tradition of over 80 years will take place on the lawn of RPC. The following people have let us know they can assist:

- Lisa Aulerich-Marciniak - p.r. coordination, baking fancy cake and serving
- Sarah Dudak - paper goods procurement
- Marika Floros - baking both types of cakes
- Tara and Amanda Gregus - baking fancy cake
- Martha Heine - baking for serving
- Kirsten Jantze - baking for serving
- Lorraine Meyer - ice cream and berry procurement
- Bill Muller - clean-up coordination
- Noemi Sanchez - baking for serving
- Dennis Sadilek - set-up assistance
- Carrie Schade - baking both types of cakes
- Marilyn Slanec - kitchen coordination
- Steve Teune - banner placement

. . . and last—but just as important—Patty Perry Halline and Connie Kelly will be calling members to secure their assistance. When they phone...answer. If they leave a message...please return it! Our community outreach is only as good as our volunteers. Thank you! E-mail Lynda Nadkarni at lmn@floros.org or Deb Jansky at newhorizons002@att.net and let us know what role you can play!
Session News
In June, the Session:

- authorized the Trustees to have repairs made to the asphalt adjacent to the garage and to the driveway at a cost of $1,725;
- approved the use of the Sanctuary by the Boy Scouts for an Eagle Court of Honor on July 22;
- placed Michael Mekstó on the inactive roll, at his request;
- removed Hope Hart from the active roll since she is now a member of the Lake Forest Presbyterian Church;
- approved a proposed amendment to the RPC bylaws concerning adding youth officers to the church boards. The amendment will be published in the August and September issues of the Vision and will be voted on at a special congregational meeting on September 12;
- voted to participate in “Taste of Riverside Churches” to be held on September 19 in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Covenant of Churches;
- created a task force to research the feasibility and options of establishing an outdoor Columbarium* at RPC;
- noted the YTD budget deficit is now $27,000;
- learned that the Presbyterian Camp at Saugatuck has been sold to Lakeshore Christian Camping, Inc., which will preserve the property in perpetuity as a natural resource and retreat and camping resource for Chicago Presbytery churches;
- approved a church yard sale fundraiser to be held on September 18.

Mary Ann Sadilek
Clerk of Session

* A columbarium is a place for the respectful and usually public storage of cinerary urns (i.e., urns holding a deceased’s cremated remains). The term comes from the Latin columba (dove) and originally referred to compartmentalized housing for doves and pigeons. (Wikipedia)

New Member Luncheon
On Sunday, July 25, from noon to 2:00 p.m., all are invited to a free lunch/class with Pastor Scott and a few church leaders. During lunch, Scott will describe some of the ministries of the church, explain what church membership entails, and answer any questions you might have. If you are interested in exploring what it means to join our church family as a new member, please sign up for lunch by contacting Scott so he can plan the meal (447-1520 or scott.jansen@comcast.net). If you want to ask him a question before you commit to the lunch, feel free to do that as well.

July Opportunities
If you are able to host Coffee Fellowship, please contact Deb Jansky or Patti Perry Halline
For flower contributions, please contact the RPC Office
Potential Acolytes & Liturgists, please contact Elizabeth Musick
Potential Ushers, please contact Steven Teune

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Page 3
Human Scene
The Human Scene continues to meet over the summer, in the same place, at the same time, but with a more informal format. Join us anytime, except of course on holiday weekends when the Human Scene will take a break. The class meets at 9:00 a.m. Sundays in the upstairs parlor.

July 4 • No class

July 11 • Small Group Ministries
Pastor Scott Jansen will teach a new process known as “mutual invitation” and some of the guiding principles that should be used for any small group ministry. Whether you are interested in a Bible study, a book study, a mission board, or any other small group, this class will help you learn how to facilitate such meetings using some of the latest innovations. We will also practice the process with a mini-Bible study ourselves.

July 18 • Colombia Mission Trip
The Board of Deacons at Riverside Presbyterian Church is helping sponsor activities of the Chicago Presbytery's Congregations in Solidarity with Latin America (CSLA), which is organizing a fact-finding mission trip to Colombia this summer (July 23-August 1). Richard Crang will be the RPC representative on that mission, and will be speaking at the Human Scene on July 18 about the historical and current background of Colombia, which has developed serious political, religious, human rights, and narco-trafficking problems of international concern. In addition, he will be seeking your input prior to the mission trip.

July 25 • Informal Discussion, led by church member Matt Lisle.

2010-2011 Bible Study
The topic for the 2010-2011 Horizons Bible Student is “Journeys Through Revelation, Apocalyptic Hope for Today” by Barbara R. Rossing. Please plan to join the Presbyterian Women on Wednesday, September 22, at 10:00 a.m., in the RPC Social Hall, as we begin this course of study.
CARERS Corner
Even though it seems as if schools have just closed for the summer, we must turn our minds to the next year and start collecting school supplies for children served by First Presbyterian Church of Chicago. By the time July has ended, August is upon us and school begins again. Thanks to your generosity the children will have the supplies they will need for the coming year.

Cheerful Givers
This summer, be sure to take a look at the Cheerful Givers Board located in the hallway, next to the library. For the next three months, the needs of the Prayer Garden will be displayed on the board. Feel free to choose an item from the board, pull the card out of the corresponding pocket, and make a donation in honor of a loved one’s birthday, anniversary, or other cheerful celebration. Remember, the dollar amount you choose to donate does not need to cover the entire cost of the item; it can be a contribution toward that item. Your Cheerful Gifts will be ready just in time for autumn planting in the Prayer Garden!

Did you see....
the article about Phyllis Sit in the Chicago Tribune?
Nurse Anesthetist Helps Ease the Pain describes Phyllis’ job as Chief Nurse Anesthetist at Stroger (Cook County) Hospital.

Deacons Doings
The job of the Deacons is to minister to the sick and to those in need or distress. To enable them to provide assistance, the Deacons occasionally hold fundraising events. They are currently in the process of planning fundraisers; one popular event that will be returning is the All-Church Bake-Off, a fun occasion that gives our church members a chance to show off their baking skills as well as their creativity. Stay tuned for more details. The Deacons have also created a special Task Force to make recommendations for the disbursement of the monies raised through these fundraisers.

On Saturday morning, June 19 (despite the lack of power many were experiencing from the storms the day before), nine members of RPC drove to Rockford to participate in a Habitat for Humanity project. Some of the group found themselves holding sheetrock over their heads for hours while securing it above; others went to work at the future home of Martha Kingambo, an African refugee now living in Rockford. Those volunteers sanded, primed and painted. Martha herself will complete at least 300 hours of “sweat equity” as part of her commitment to the project. During a short break, Martha shared her story. She and her four children escaped from Zaire shortly after her husband was murdered during a political uprising. Tears filled her eyes as she recounted those difficult times. It was her faith in God, she said, that kept her strong enough to keep going and eventually brought her to Rockford. I think everyone present that day was moved by Martha’s story and very grateful to have been part of this organization that would enable Martha and her children to live in a home of their own. Volunteers from RPC included Pastor Scott, Doug Harvin, Diane and Claire Chaney, Marilyn Slanec, Doris and Lindsay Hayes, and Kathi and Lisa Roccanova.

As always, if you ever have a need to contact the Deacon assigned to you, just check the back page of the Sunday bulletin, to see who has been assigned to the first letter of your last name. We are here to offer help whenever needed.

Trustees
Our trustees for the month of July are Wayne Penn and Fred Mitchell. The Trustees invite all interested members and friends to join them for the July Family Work Day on July 7, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Children

Many Thanks to Many Wonderful Volunteers
Many thanks to all of the wonderful people who have contributed their time, energy, and patience to make our Sunday School and Godly Play programs such a success! Without your help, we wouldn’t be able to touch the lives of so many children as we do at RPC. Our 2009/2010 volunteers were: Beverly Aieta, Shannon Buhle, Jeanine Buttimer, John Cain, Susan Deems-Dluhy, Jake Dluhy, Frank and Mack Fieseler, Marika Floros, Patti Friend, Melissa Gilbert, Jill Glawe, Amanda and Tara Gregus, Ellen Hamilton, John Haugland, Courtney Hooglander, Mary Jansen, Nancy Jensen, Tom Kedzie, Connie Kelly, Alex Krug, the Lisle Family, Lisa Marciniak, Lorraine and George Meyer, the Mitchell Family, Colleen Muller, Lynda and Kathryn Nadkarni, Joe Ourch, the Pecis Family, Serina Ranft, Kathy Roccanova, Rachel and Nicole Rocconi, Brooke and Abbey Schwarz, Carrie Staubus, Bill Vogel, and Melinda Yachnin.

Now is the time to register for VBS fun!
Vacation Bible school at Sts. Peter & Paul Lutheran Church: July 18–22, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Travel back in time to a Middle-Eastern market place eating and working as the Jewish people did in Biblical times. That’s what you’ll do when the Covenant of Churches VBS kicks off at Sts. Peter and Paul Lutheran Church. Children four years of age through those entering 5th grade are invited to attend, with the evening being facilitated by youth and adult volunteers from participating churches. To register your child, or to volunteer, please fill out the registration/volunteer form found on the bulletin board outside the Social Hall or on our website. It’s a wonderful and rewarding experience for all involved. If you would like to donate any of the following items, please put them in the bin at the entrance of the Social Hall: potpourri, incense, old white t-shirts, jingle bells, 1-gallon zip-lock bags, large baskets (to borrow), tarps and blankets (to borrow).

Cub Scout Pack 24 Boy Scout Troop 24
The Cub Scouts staffed a booth selling hot dogs at Riverside’s Cruise Night on June 10. They’ll be there again on the second Thursdays of July and August. On July 25, the Cub Scouts will have a picnic at National Grove #2 in North Riverside. Anyone interested in learning more about Cub Scouts is welcome. Contact our Cubmaster for more information. In June, Christian Flasza completed his Eagle Scout project at the historic Franzosenbusch Prairie House. Franzosenbusch, a mid-nineteenth century community of German immigrants, was centered around the crossroads of 22nd Street and Wolf Road. Scouts from Troop 24 assisted Christian in the construction of a period herb garden. This was the fourth Eagle Project completed in 2010.

The Wicky Wacky Sunday services were followed by a picnic on the church lawn.
Wicky Wacky Sunday was a Wicky Wacky FUN Day
When was the last time you saw someone wearing a sombrero, or Micky Mouse hands, or a painted paper vest, or pajamas to church? Prior to “Wicky Wacky Sunday” the answer was probably “never.” There’s only one person who could bring out the carefree child in all of us like that…Nancy Dvorak!

The church was brimming with people and enthusiasm on June 13 as we celebrated a special children’s service in honor of Nancy. The fun continued with a church picnic on the lawn, where everyone had a chance to say “Thank you, thank you, thank you, Nancy” for her 29 years of loving service.

Many people contributed children’s books in Nancy’s honor, which will become part of Nancy’s Book Nook, a soon-to-be area in the church library for kids from church and preschool to enjoy. If you’d like to contribute a book in Nancy’s honor, drop it off at the church office. Don’t forget to add an inscription to make it extra special!
Youth

Mission Trip Fundraiser

We were almost rained out, but the weather cooperated just in time for us to enjoy the beautiful yard of Jeanine and Jerry Buttimer on Friday, June 18, at the party to raise funds for the four adults chaperoning this year’s mission trip. Lisa Marciniak, Tara Gregus, Fred Mitchell, and George Dluhy will accompany 22 high schoolers to New York to the Timothy Hill Children's Ranch from July 17 to July 24. Over $1,500 was raised to help to pay for the leaders. Thanks to all who attended and supported this effort, and to the Buttimers for hosting the event.

Ryan Womack Scholarship Fundraiser—All Ages Welcome!

A scholarship fundraiser will be held on Saturday, July 10, between 2:00 and 7:00 p.m., at The Sweet Spot – 2531 Desplaines Ave, North Riverside (708) 443-5770. The proceeds from this event support the Ryan Womack Scholarship Fund, which was set up by Randy and Lonnie Womack to honor their son, Ryan, who tragically passed away in a Little League accident in Riverside on May 5, 1990 at the age of 8. Over the last 19 years, a total of $490,000 in scholarships have been provided to more than 140 students. This year, 34 scholarships will be given to area residents for the 2010-2011 school year. The cost of this event is $35 Presale and $40 at the door and includes:

♦ 7 Soda or Beer tickets (must be 21 years old)
♦ Pig Roast meal
♦ Live music from rock band Out For Hours

PURCHASE TICKETS or DONATE: Visit www.WomackScholarship.com and click the Pig or visit The Sweet Spot Tavern or Marlins Bar & Grill and ask the Bartender for tickets.

Sponsors and Vendors:
The Ryan Womack Scholarship Foundation
The Sweet Spot Tavern and Grill
Marlins Bar and Grill
Out For Hours Band
Twilight Party Rentals
Our church family’s graduating seniors will begin college this fall. We wish them the best! (Pictures were not available for Mark Benya, Ben Kohler, Mary McCoy, and Morgan Vogel.)
Church News

In Memoriam
Henrietta Cady
May 9, 1914—May 24, 2010

Dear, Dear, DEAR Church Family,

Wicky, Wacky Sunday was one of the best days of my life! The wonderful Church Service and mini sermons will never be forgotten. I will hold on to those magic-rope-heart memories forever! Our PreSchool’s “Catch ‘Em Being Good” philosophy was put into perfect place as over 50 children did the most amazing job in presenting such a meaningful service!

Not only were the bouquet of flowers such a surprise BUT “Nancy’s Nook!!!” OOOH! OOOH! What an unexpected WONDER! Having a special spot in my name is such an honor! I’ve been poring over all the terrific and amazing book donations!

Church Family! Thank you with all my heart for your support and encouragement over the years. . .and the years to come! I am so proud to be a part of this caring and wonderful Church.

A special thank you to the WONDER OF WONDERS: Jenny Kolinski and Lisa Carlson who poured their hearts and souls into creating this most WONDROUS day—and for so many of you not named for all your kindesses in making this event WONDERFUL!

Endless gratitude,
Nancy Dvorak

In addition to being honored by RPC at “Wicky Wacky Sunday,” Nancy Dvorak recently received the Bill Jansky Distinguished Citizen Award from the Riverside Township Lions Club.

Dear Friends of RPC,

Thank you for the senior high service award, which includes a donation of $50 to a charity of my choice. This past year I have enjoyed serving on the Board of Deacons, teaching Sunday School, and doing anything I could to help this church family. I have decided to donate the $50 to an organization called Evelyn's Baskets of Love and Life, which provides items necessary for the care of babies born with cleft lip and palate in Guatemala, giving hope and encouragement to their parents and caregivers. Most of these babies would have been malnourished and died, or abandoned by their mothers, without the help provided by this organization. The $50 will buy formula for one month, or cover travel expenses for surgeries. If you would like to learn more and/or donate, please go to http://www.evelynsbaskets.org/. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Amanda Gregus

Congratulations to Amanda Gregus and Kathryn Nadkarni, who are this year’s recipients of RPC’s Youth Service Awards for their outstanding contributions to our church.

In all, RPC Youth donated 845 hours of service to the church in the past year.

Dear RPC,

Thanks so much for giving me the honor of the Junior High Service Hour award. I really enjoyed earning the hours. Vacation Bible School was one of my favorite hour-earners. I love little kids, and I got a chance to get to know them and work with them. However, my all-time favorite activity was probably Godly Play, because I got a chance to have church with the younger kids. It’s always fun to spend time with a few people that absolutely adore you. The award included $50 to a charity of my choice. I have chosen to donate the money to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). Every time I see one of those heart-wrenching Sarah-McLachlan-singing commercials, I just want to cry. Animals mean a lot to me, and I want to make sure that they all have safe homes where they’re treated right.

Thanks again for my award!
Kathryn Nadkarni
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<td>6:30a Men’s Forum 9:30a Staff Mtg</td>
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Please check the Website for the most recent calendar updates!
RIVERSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

116 Barrypoint Road
Riverside, Illinois
60546

Phone: 708-447-1520
Fax: 708-447-1525
Website: www.rpcusa.org

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.” — Proverbs 29:18

Riverside Presbyterian Church

Pastor:  Dr. Scott Jansen
        scott.jansen@comcast.net

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        musichs@comcast.net

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Custodian:
        Krzysztof Gieron

Clerk of Session:
        Mary Ann Sadilek
        MASDS@aol.com

Deacons Moderators:
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Wedding Coordinator:
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Artist in Residence:
        Karen Mendoza

Director of Music Emerita:
        Mary Ann Sadilek

Organist Emerita:
        Arline Robbins

More information about the ministry and mission of Riverside Presbyterian Church is available by contacting any member of our church staff and by visiting our website: www.rpcusa.org

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